Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) An acoustic receiver, comprising:

means for converting an input audio signal into an acoustic signal;

a housing having a plurality of sides that surround said converting means, one of said sides including an output port for broadcasting said acoustic signal;

a jacket having at least three sections for engaging at least three of said sides, said three sections being generally flat and lying on respective ones of said sides, thereby enhancing the structural integrity of said acoustic receiver and protecting said housing and said converting means from damage due to handling, at least two mutually adjacent ones of said three sections contacting corresponding ones of said sides, said jacket having a thickness and a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback.

3. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is made of stainless steel.

4. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is made of a soft magnetic material.

5. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is made of a polymer.

6. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is primarily made of Kapton.

7. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is made of epoxy.

8. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket includes silicone.

9-10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is adapted to shield said converting means from the effects of electromagnetic interference.

12. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said converting means includes electromagnetic components and a diaphragm.

13. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is preconfigured to be press-fit directly onto said housing.

14. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is welded onto said housing.

15. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is adhered to said housing.

16. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, further including a layer of acoustical dampening material sandwiched between at least one of said sections of said jacket and one of said sides.

17. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is generally cylindrical in shape.

18. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket has a generally trapezium shape.

19. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket has a generally trapezium-shaped cross section.

20. (Previously Presented) A transducer, comprising:

means for converting between an acoustic signal and an audio signal;

a housing surrounding said converting means; and

a jacket surrounding at least a portion of said housing prior to installation of said transducer into a hearing aid or a telecommunications system so as to protect said transducer against damage due to handling thereof during said installation, said jacket having a thickness and a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback, at least part of said jacket contacting said housing directly or via a layer of acoustical dampening material sandwiched directly between said at least part of said jacket and said housing.

21. (Previously Presented) The transducer of claim 20, wherein said transducer is a microphone.

22. (Previously Presented) The transducer of claim 20, wherein said transducer is a receiver.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously Presented) The transducer of claim 20, further in combination with a second transducer having a second housing, said jacket surrounding at least a portion of said housing of said transducer and at least a portion of said second housing of said second transducer.

25. (Previously Presented) A microphone, comprising:

means for converting an acoustic signal into an audio signal;

a housing having a plurality of sides that surround said converting means, one of said sides including an input port for receiving said acoustic signal; and

a jacket having at least three sections for engaging at least three of said sides, said three sections being generally flat and lying on and contacting, directly or via a layer of acoustical dampening material, respective ones of said sides, thereby enhancing the structural integrity of said microphone and protecting said housing and said means for converting from damage due to handling, said jacket having a thickness and a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback.

26. (Previously Presented) An acoustic receiver, comprising:

means for converting an input audio signal into an acoustic signal;

a housing having a plurality of sides that surround said converting means, one of said sides including an output port for broadcasting said acoustic signal;

a jacket having sections for at least partially enfolding said sides, one of said sections and a corresponding side forming a gap therebetween, thereby enhancing the structural integrity of said acoustic receiver and protecting said housing and said converting means from damage due to handling, said jacket having a thickness and a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback; and

a printed circuit board located at least partially within said gap, said printed circuit board including electronics for processing said input audio signal.

27. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 26, wherein said jacket is made of a soft magnetic material.

28. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 26, wherein said printed circuit board is a flexible printed circuit board.

29. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 26, wherein said electronics includes an amplifier.

30. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 26, wherein said jacket is generally cylindrical in shape.

31. (Previously Presented) An acoustic receiver, comprising:

means for converting an input audio signal into an acoustic signal;

a housing having six sides that surround said converting means, one of said sides including an output port for broadcasting said acoustic signal; and

a jacket having a rectangular cross-section and sections for closely interfitting with four of said six sides, thereby enhancing the structural integrity of said acoustic receiver and protecting said housing and said converting means from damage due to handling, said jacket having a thickness and a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback, wherein at least one of said sections of said jacket contacts a corresponding one of said four of said six sides directly or via a layer of dampening material sandwiched between said at least one of said sections of said jacket and said corresponding one of said four of said six sides.

32. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 31, wherein said jacket is made of a soft magnetic material.

33. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 31, wherein said jacket is welded to said sides.

34. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 31, wherein said jacket is a polymer.

35. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 31, further including a dampening material between said jacket and said housing.

36. (Previously Presented) An acoustic receiver, comprising:

means for converting an input audio signal into an acoustic signal;

a housing having sides that surround said converting means, one of said sides including an output port for broadcasting said acoustic signal; and

an epoxy jacket encapsulating said housing so as to contact at least two mutually adjacent ones of said sides thereof, said epoxy jacket being adapted to enhance the structural integrity of said acoustic receiver and protect said housing and said means for converting from damage due to handling, said epoxy jacket having a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback.

37. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 36, further including a printed circuit board located within said epoxy jacket, said printed circuit board including electronics for processing said input audio signal.

38. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 36, wherein said epoxy jacket has a generally uniform thickness.

39. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 36, wherein said epoxy jacket has a variable thickness.

40. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 36, wherein said epoxy jacket is generally cylindrical in shape.

41. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 36, wherein said epoxy jacket has a generally D-shaped cross section.

42. (Previously Presented) An acoustic receiver, comprising:

means for converting an input audio signal into an acoustic signal;

a housing having a plurality of sides that surround said converting means, one of said sides including an output port for broadcasting said acoustic signal;

a jacket spaced away from said housing; and

an acoustic dampening material directly sandwiched between at least two mutually adjacent sides of said jacket and corresponding sides of said housing prior to installation of said acoustic receiver into a hearing aid or a telecommunications system so as to protect said acoustic

receiver against damage due to handling thereof during said installation, said jacket having a thickness and a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback.

43. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 42, wherein said dampening material is silicone.

44. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 42, wherein said dampening material is a resilient material.

45. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 42, wherein said jacket is generally cylindrical in shape.

46. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 42, wherein said jacket has a generally D-shaped cross section.

47. (Previously Presented) The acoustic receiver of claim 42, further including a printed circuit board located within said dampening material, said printed circuit board including electronics for processing said input audio signal.

48. (Canceled) A method of assembling a transducer that minimizes damage to internal components thereof during assembly, comprising:

providing said transducer having means for converting between an input audio signal and an acoustic signal;

substantially surrounding said transducer with a housing;

installing a jacket that at least partially covers said housing to form a transducer assembly having enhanced structural integrity relative to that of said housing without said jacket; and

after said installing, inserting said transducer assembly into a hearing aid or a telecommunications system.

49. (Canceled) The method of claim 48, wherein said installing includes attaching said jacket to said housing such that said housing is non-removable from said jacket.

50. (Canceled) The method of claim 49, wherein said installing includes one of welding, adhering, and press-fitting.

51. (Canceled) The method of claim 49, wherein said jacket is made of a material that suppresses the effects of electromagnetic interference.

52. (Canceled) The method of claim 51, wherein said material is one of stainless steel and a soft magnetic material.

53. (Canceled) The acoustic receiver of claim 2, wherein said jacket is non-removably coupled to said housing.

54. (Previously Presented) A transducer, comprising:

means for converting between an acoustic signal and an audio signal;

a housing surrounding said converting means, said housing having two ends and at least two mutually adjacent sides; and

a jacket surrounding at least a portion of said housing prior to installation of said transducer into a hearing aid or a telecommunications system so as to protect said transducer against damage due to handling thereof during said installation, said jacket having a thickness and a mass adapted to suppress vibrational feedback, at least part of said jacket contacting a majority of the surface of at least said two mutually adjacent sides of said housing directly or via a layer of acoustical dampening material disposed between said at least part of said jacket and said housing.

55. (Previously Presented) The transducer of claim 54, wherein said housing further has a third side adjacent one of said two mutually adjacent sides, said jacket also contacting said third side directly or via said layer of acoustical dampening material.

58. (Previously Presented) The transducer of claim 54, wherein said jacket has a thickness of between about 0.05 mm and 0.3 mm.

59. (Previously Presented) The transducer of claim 54, wherein said jacket is press-fit onto said housing.

60. (Previously Presented) The transducer of claim 54, wherein said jacket contacts at least one of said ends of said housing directly or via said layer of acoustical dampening material.

61. (Previously Presented) The transducer of claim 54, wherein said jacket contacts said majority of said surface of at least said two mutually adjacent sides of said housing via said layer of acoustical dampening material, said acoustical dampening material being composed of a material including epoxy.